has adversely affected consumers specially the below poverty line families and requested for reduction in customs duty on palmolien oil;

(c) Keeping in view the interest of both oil seed growers and consumers, the Government has decided not to make any change, in the customs duty rate on palmolien oil, for the present.

Restructuring of National Savings Organisation

2026. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under overall restructuring of the National Savings Organisation some regional offices have been replaced by regional Centres;

(b) if so, what are the parameters for such restructuring;

(c) whether Ahmedabad Regional Centre has been excluded in the new set up even though eleven per cent share of the total small saving in the country comes from Gujarat if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are considering the Government of Gujarat's request for reopening of the Ahmedabad Regional Office and if so; by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, the Government has decided to restructure the National Savings Organisation into a National Savings Institute (NSI) with headquarters at Nagpur and 10 regional centres at Chandigarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Guwahati, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur & Jaipur. The locations of these offices have been decided on the basis of small savings collections, concentration of agents in different States and even distribution of these centres in the country. Gujarat would be covered by the regional centre of NSI at Jaipur.

ATMs for physically challenged

2027. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Make ATMs accessible for the physically challenged" which appeared in the "Indian Express" dated the 17th October, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken for providing best services to physically challenged persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

(c) The RBI have also examined the issue of providing various facilities to the disabled persons in consultation with Indian Banks' Association and concerned departments of the Bank. A few issues, wherein steps have been initiated for providing facilities such as Currency Notes, tele-banking facility, Reservation in employment, loan facility at lower Interest rates are briefly summarized below:—

* Currency notes with small raised feature in different geometrical shape is available on the different denomination of notes in Mahatma Gandhi Series on the left hand side of the watermark window above the Ashoka Pillar emblem, which help the visually impaired in identifying the denomination of notes. (Rupees 20, 50, 100, 500 & 1000).

* Some new private sector banks and foreign banks have introduced tele-banking facility, which may help in a small way to the disabled people/persons. The matter is being taken up with Nationalised banks to provide similar facilities.

Tax Evasion by Mohan Nagar Avas Samiti

2028. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of complaints of irregularities/mismanagements/evasion of Income tax/corruption in Mohan Nagar Karamchari Sehkari Avas Samiti, Ltd., Mohan Nagar during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether statements of all members of Samiti have been/are being recorded by the Investigation Wing, if so, the findings thereof; and